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reform. It is almost invaluable for the use of persons in municipal or state government or housing associations who wish to improve their local housing legislation and who are unwilling or unable to have recourse to expert advice. The book, though highly suggestive, is not a large contribution to housing science as distinguished from the art of housing reform, but it is likely to result in the passage of a series of quite similar housing laws throughout the country which will make possible the discovery of the effect of similar provisions in diverse environments. Already Grand Rapids and Duluth have passed ordinances largely based upon this book.

JAMES FORD.

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*Livelihood and Poverty. A Study in the Economic Conditions of Working-Class Households in Northampton, Warrington, Stanley, and Reading.* By A. L. BOWLEY and A. R. BURNETT-HURST. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 1915. Pp. 222. \$1.40.)

The Ratan Tata Foundation "to promote the study and further the knowledge of methods of preventing and relieving poverty and destitution" is responsible for the publication of this book which is interesting not only for the statistical method employed, but also for its conclusions. In 1912 Dr. Bowley made an experimental study of the working-class families in the city of Reading, and the experience there gained served to economize energy in the surveys in the other towns made the following summer by Mr. Burnett-Hurst. In order to obtain an accurate sample of the working-class population, the tax lists in Stanley and Warrington and the directories in Northampton and Reading were carefully checked over, every twentieth building being noted. These buildings were then visited, and information was collected from all that were inhabited by working-class families. The only case in which another building might be substituted was that of a house found vacant, when the next dwelling on the left was to be approached. By this means schedules were filled out at almost exactly one house in twenty. Wherever it was possible to check the results thus obtained by figures in the census or Board of Trade reports, the comparison showed that the statistics gathered by the investigators were quite accurate. It seems possible to accept with confidence Dr. Bowley's well-argued conclusion that the deductions drawn from the statistics are truly representative of the four cities in question.

Three main problems are discussed for the towns collectively and individually. First a careful study of housing was made. It was found that the typical dwelling in Northampton had six rooms, in Reading five, in Warrington four, and in Stanley three. The reason for the prevalence of these tiny homes in Stanley is the fact that the collieries furnish dwellings rent-free to many of their employees, and give rent allowance to others. If an employee refuses a free house he is denied his rent allowance. This coercion drives a great number into the company buildings which are very small. In measuring overcrowding, the standard of the British census is discarded. Instead of taking the indiscriminating limit of two to a room, this study counts an adult as one, a child under five as one fourth, a child five but under fourteen as one half, and other children as three fourths each. Then a house is considered overcrowded if the average population is more than one to a room. By this standard it was found that 8.7 per cent of the houses in Northampton, 19.7 per cent in Warrington, 13.5 per cent in Reading, and 50 per cent in Stanley were overcrowded.

Elaborate statistics are given to show the composition of families. While the claim made in the introduction by R. H. Tawney, director of the foundation, that this investigation is "novel" is untrue, similar studies having been made by the United States Bureau of Labor, for example, nevertheless, the excellence of the work deserves high commendation, for the study was thorough. Perhaps the most interesting conclusion to be drawn from this phase of the survey was that of the 2536 adult male wage-earners investigated only 499 or 19.7 per cent were maintaining entirely without assistance a wife and two or more children. However, there were larger families having more than one wage-earner. On the supposition that in such cases, where there were a dependent wife and two non-earning children, the head of the family entirely supported four, the maximum possible proportion of men bearing alone the burden of maintaining a wife and two or more children each was 36.2 per cent.

The third and most vital problem was that of the sufficiency of earnings. Rowntree's standard of the minimum cost of living for York in 1899 was somewhat modified by allowing the laborer two pounds of meat a week, and by drawing closer distinctions between the food consuming needs of the children. By this new standard, which actually made poverty appear less than Rowntree's, in Northampton 5.9 per cent, in Warrington 10.9 per cent, and in

Reading 15.1 per cent of all households were below the poverty line. That is their incomes from wages, pensions, lodgers, and property were not sufficient to provide essential food and clothing after rent had been paid for the house in which the family was living. It was assumed, with good foundation in observation, that the rent was brought to a minimum by the families themselves. These figures are more impressive when it is further noted that of the non-wage-earning school children, 12 per cent in Stanley, 16 per cent in Northampton, 25 per cent in Warrington, and 47 per cent in Reading were members of these sub-standard families. The belief is expressed that the secret of poverty prevention lies in raising wages to a point that allows efficient living.

Cautiously written, thoroughly considered, well founded upon carefully planned tables, this book is one which inspires confidence. It is full of interesting facts and fertile suggestion.

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#### NEW BOOKS

D'ALFONSO, N. R. *Una nuova fase dell' economia politica e il caro prezzo de' viveri. Naturalismo economico.* Second edition. (Milan: Società Editrice Libreria. 1915. Pp. 67. 2 l.)

The primary doctrines of this pamphlet are not new; nor are many of the secondary ones. The high cost of living is attributed to well-known social movements: the industrial revolution, the concentration of population, talent, capital, money, and activity in cities, and the consequent decline of the landed industries. It is viewed as a salutary warning of an unnatural and unfortunate development. But better days are coming. There will be a happier balance of rural and urban life, an economic naturalism, when public and private agencies shall have done their slow work in the intellectual, technical, aesthetic, moral, and spiritual education of the people.

The author, apparently, is unacquainted with the doctrines of the economists whose inadequacies and superficialities he would correct and with some of the best established facts and principles of sociology and economics. But he writes most pleasingly, and he has convictions, always interesting, as to metallic and paper money, agriculture and stock raising, education, the origin of slavery, the purposes and limitations of orthodox economists, vegetarianism, the perils of overheated houses, the wholesome social influence of Roman Catholic Christianity, and a score of other subjects.

WILLARD C. FISHER.

ANDREAE, P. *The prohibition movement in its broader bearings upon our social, commercial and religious liberties.* (Chicago: F. Mendelsohn. 1915. Pp. 421. \$2.)